

February 18, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen:

To comply with the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.607(2) and 17.4.609(2), the Department of Environmental Quality prepared the enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is for the proposed change in operations from a solid waste incinerator to a solid waste transfer station. The facility is located at 328 N. M Street, Livingston, Montana, in the SW ¼ of Section 7, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Park County, Montana. The facility is on approximately 1.77 acres of Montana Rail Link Land, leased to the County. The waste would be containerized and transported by rail to the Valley View Landfill, owned and operated by City-County Sanitation Service, Inc., located in northern Jefferson County, near East Helena, Montana.

The purpose of the EA is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups, and individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on human health and the environment. The Department will not make a licensing decision until thirty (30) days after publication of the EA.

If you wish to comment on this proposed action, please do so in writing, or on the Internet at [wutmbcomments@mt.gov](mailto:wutmbcomments@mt.gov), within the allotted time.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at the Permitting and Compliance Division, Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Solid Waste Section, (406) 444-9879 or e-mail [mdasilva@mt.gov](mailto:mdasilva@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike DaSilva  
Solid Waste Section

Enclosure

February 18, 2005

**Park County Transfer Station EA Mailing List**

Park County Refuse District #1, 328 N. M Street, Livingston, MT, 59047  
Park County Commission, 414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047-2799  
Peggy Scanson, RN, Park County Health Officer, P.O. Box 1139, Livingston, MT 59044

City of Livingston, 414 E Callender, Livingston, MT 59011  
JTL Livingston Ready Mix, 1310 East Gallatin Livingston, MT 59047  
Montana Rail Link, P.O. Box 16630, Missoula, MT, 59808  
Lewis & Clark County, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59624-1724  
City of Helena, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59623  
Jefferson County, P.O. Box H, Boulder, MT 59632-0249  
Doug Sparrow, City County Sanitation, 3630 York Road, Helena, MT 59602-8815

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jean Ramer, 301 S. Park, Drawer 10014, Helena, MT 59626-0014

Director, Department of, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 E 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620  
Tom Ellerhoff, DEQ, Director's Office, Helena, MT 59620  
Jeff Ryan, DEQ, Water Protection Bureau, Helena, MT 59620  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT 59620  
Documents Section, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT 59620  
State Historic Preservation Office, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620  
Montana Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division, Waste Management Section received an application to make a major change in the license of a solid waste management system. The Department reviewed the application and determined it is complete. The name and address of the applicant is:

Park County Refuse District #1, 328 N. M Street, Livingston, MT, 59047

The application is to change the existing facility from a solid waste incinerator to a solid waste transfer station. The facility is located at 328 N. M Street, Livingston, Montana, in the SW ¼ of Section 7, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Park County, Montana. The facility is on approximately 1.77 acres of Montana Rail Link Land, leased to the County. The waste would be containerized and transported by rail to the Valley View Landfill, owned and operated by City-County Sanitation Service, Inc., located in northern Jefferson County, near East Helena, Montana.

This notice is to inform the public of the proposed action and to seek public participation in the decision-making process. To comply with the Administrative Rules of Montana, Sections 17.4.607(2) and 17.4.609(2), an Environmental Assessment has been prepared and is available upon request from the Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Waste Management Section, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, and on the Department Web site at <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/ea/wastemgt.asp>. There will be a thirty (30) day comment period from the date of this notice for the public to submit written comments concerning the proposed facility. Comments may also be e-mailed, to [wutmbcomments@mt.gov](mailto:wutmbcomments@mt.gov)

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2005.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Permitting and Compliance Division**  
**Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau**  
**Waste Management Section**  
**PO Box 200901**  
**Helena, MT 59620-0901**

**CHECK LIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

1.                   **Name of facility:** Park County Transfer Station  
**License #:** 195  
**Address of facility:** 328 North M Street, Livingston, MT, 59047  
  
**Name of applicant:** Park County Solid Waste District  
**Address:** 414 E Callender, Livingston, MT, 59047  
**Facility telephone:** 406-222-4187  
**Other telephone:** 406-222-4106
2.   **This application is for a: ☐ solid waste landfill, ☒ transfer station, ☐ resource recovery or processing facility, ☐ other (please specify)**
3.   **Legal description of proposed location:**  
SW ¼ of Section 7, T2S, R 10E, Park County, MT
4.   **If the property is not owned by the applicant, give name and address of lessor who holds title to the property:**  
**Name:** Montana Rail Link  
**Address:** P.O. Box 16630, Missoula, MT, 59808
5.   **Total acreage of proposed site:** 1.77 acres  
**Acreage useable for the solid waste system:** 1.77 acres
6.   **Population to be served by solid waste system:** 15,840  
**Tonnage to be accepted per year:** Approximately 12,000 tons per year
7.   **Description of the proposed project:**  
Because federal Clean Air Act regulations require extensive upgrades to the existing solid waste incinerator if it continues to operate after May 6, 2005, the applicant wishes to eliminate the incinerator and replace it with a solid waste transfer station. A transfer station is a facility that collects waste for transport to a landfill. All aspects of the operation at the proposed transfer station would remain as they are now except that instead of burning the waste it would be compacted and hauled to a Class II landfill, the Valley View Landfill, owned and operated by City-County Sanitation Service, Inc., located in northern Jefferson County, near East Helena, Montana.

Using the existing building, waste would be deposited on the tipping floor inside the building and pushed into a trash compactor. The compactor would compact the waste into containers that would be closed and trucked approximately 400 feet to the nearby rail yard and loaded on rail cars. The containers would be taken by rail to a loadout at the north end of 18<sup>th</sup> Street, behind Wal-Mart, in Helena. To get to the landfill near East Helena, the trucks would travel approximately two blocks south to US Highway 12/287, approximately six and one-quarter miles east to Montana Highway 518, then approximately one-and-one-half miles south to the landfill access road, and approximately one-half mile east to the landfill. The empty containers would be loaded on rail cars and transported back to the Livingston transfer station.

The number of employees and hours of operation (Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm) would remain the same as for the incinerator. The facility is served by city water and sewer. Class III and IV wastes would be taken to their respective landfills. White goods and other recyclable materials would be collected for recycling. Fire protection would be provided by the City of Livingston. Any liquid spills would be contained by using sand or absorbent materials. All waste would be screened to assure that no hazardous waste is accepted.

8. **Description of the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**
  - a) Elimination of the incinerator and associated air emissions.
  - b) Halting of ash disposal in the county's unlined Class II landfill.
  - c) Disposal of the waste in a lined Class II landfill.
  - d) Local tax savings realized by not upgrading the incinerator.
9. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:**
  - a) Grant the request for a change in the license from an incinerator to a transfer station. This would provide a functional system for disposal of municipal solid waste generated in Livingston and Park County.
  - b) Deny the requested change, the "no action" alternative. If this alternative were chosen the county would have to either: 1) upgrade their incinerator, 2) direct haul waste to a class II landfill, 3) choose another location and apply for a transfer station license at that location, or 4) begin the lengthy process of locating an appropriate site and applying for a Class II landfill license.
10. **A list and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

The proposed transfer station must meet the requirements of the Montana Solid Waste Management Act and other Montana environmental laws and regulations as well as city and county ordinances.
11. **Findings:**

The Department finds that, there would be minor impacts to the physical and human environment, that a checklist EA is the appropriate level of analysis and, that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is requesting input from the public regarding this proposal. In the absence of adverse public comment identifying environmental problems or significant impacts that have not been addressed in this EA, the Department intends to approve the requested license change.

A summary of the potential environmental effects of the proposal is provided in Tables 1 and 2. Table 1 shows the potential effects on the physical and biological environment. Table 2 shows the potential effects on the social and economic environment. A brief description and evaluation of the potential environmental effects on those resources is provided in the Appendix.

**12. Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:**

Park County  
City of Livingston  
Jefferson County  
Lewis and Clark County  
City of Helena

**13. Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:**

Park County  
Laura Nicolai

EA prepared by:  
Mike DaSilva

Date: February 18, 2005

**TABLE 1. Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Physical & Biological Environments.**

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT <sup>1</sup>					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat			X			X
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			X			X
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				X		
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality				X		X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air Quality			X			X
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				X		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy			X			X
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites					X	

<sup>1</sup> CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: Minor for the Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Solid Waste Management Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

**TABLE 2. Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Social & Economic Environments.**

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT <sup>1</sup>					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Social Structure and Mores				X		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				X		
5. Human Health			X			X
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				X		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment				X		
8. Distribution of Population				X		
9. Demands for Government Services				X		
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity			X			X
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals			X			X

<sup>1</sup> CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: Minor for Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Solid Waste Management Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Physical & Biological Environments (From Table 1).**

#### **1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat**

Any impacts to terrestrial and aquatic life would be minor and likely positive because there would no longer be stack emissions from the incinerator.

#### **2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution**

Any impacts to water would be minor and likely positive because there would no longer be stack emissions from the incinerator.

#### **5. Aesthetics**

Aesthetics would be improved because the stack emissions would be eliminated

#### **6. Air Quality**

Air quality would be improved because the stack emissions would be eliminated

#### **8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy**

There may be a minor impact to energy usage when comparing the amount of energy used to incinerate the waste to the amount that would be used to transport the waste to the landfill.

### **Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Social & Economic Environments (From Table 2).**

#### **3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue**

There would be a minor shift in the tax base, as the waste would go into a private landfill that pays taxes on the land used for landfilling. Another minor positive impact would be the tax savings for Park County not having to upgrade their incinerator.

#### **5. Human Health**

There would be a minor improvement in human health because there would no longer be emissions from the incineration.

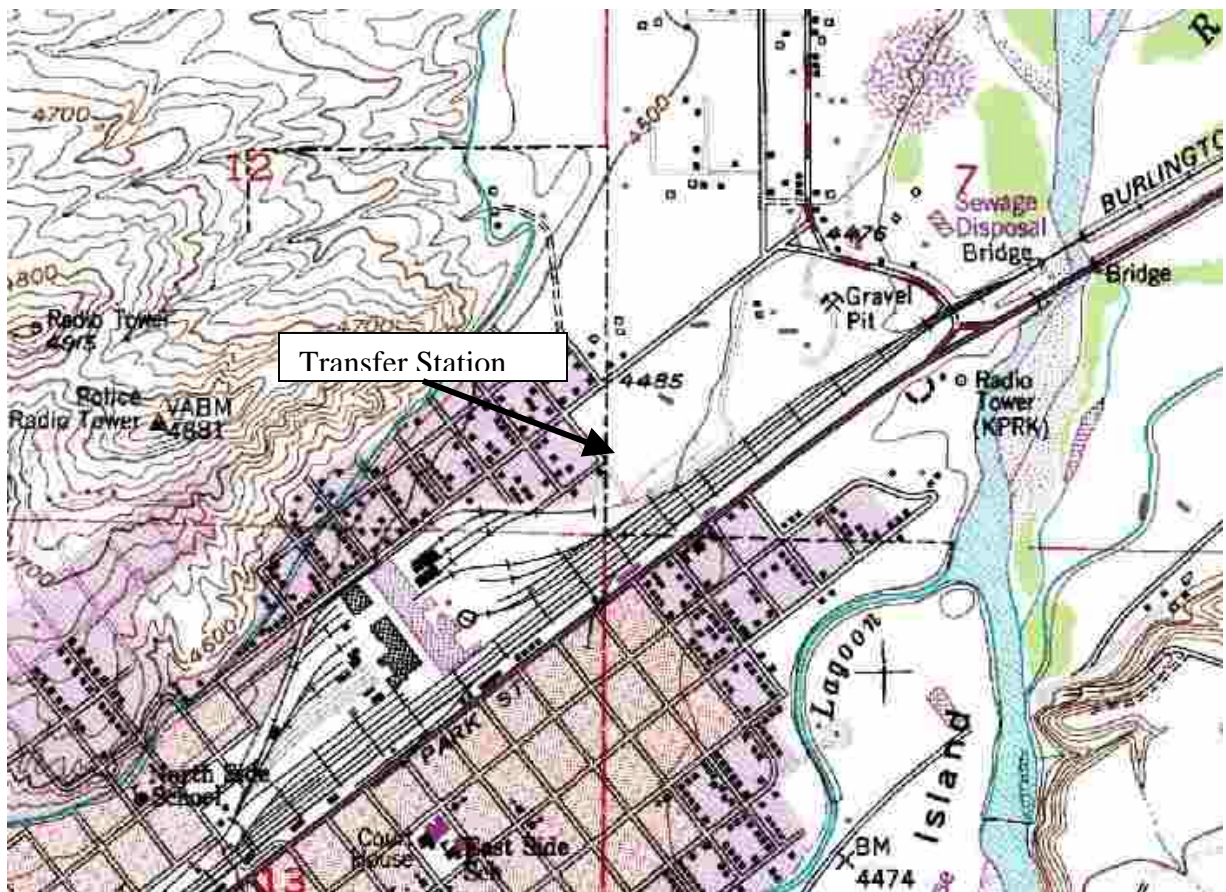
#### **10. Industrial and Commercial Activity**

There would be a minor increase in the activity at the transfer station as trucks would move the trash containers to and from the transfer station to the rail cars and back, and at the receiving end trucks would move the trash containers back and forth from the landfill to the railhead.

#### **11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals**

A minor positive impact would be that the County Commissioner's goal of eliminating the incinerator would be achieved.





General location of the existing incinerator and proposed transfer station.



Aerial photo of the existing incinerator building that is proposed to be used for the transfer station.